

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3296

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CINCLANT

USDEL MC

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER UNHAPPY ABOUT DUTCH

SQUADRON'S VISIT TO SPAIN

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF DEFENSE VREDELING HAS
EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER VISIT BY A SMALL DUTCH
SQUADRON TO THE SPANISH PORT OF EL FERROL DE CAUDILLO.
(MARCH 30-APRIL 1).

VREDELING HAS ORDERED ALL FUTURE SHIP VISITS TO BE
CLEARED WITH HIM. QUESTIONS ABOUT VISIT HAVE BEEN
ASKED IN PARLIAMENT. VREDELING'S
REACTION INDICATES GON'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO
SLIGHTEST SUGGESTION OF DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN
NETHERLANDS AND SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 30, A SMALL SQUADRON CONSISTING OF CRUISER
SEVEN PROVINCES, TORPEDO BOATS AMSTERDAM AND UTRECHT
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AND FRIGATE VAN GALEN VISITED PORT OF EL FERROL DEL

CAUDILLO, FRANCO'S BIRTHPLACE. COMMANDER OF DUTCH SQUADRON MADE COURTESY CALL ON THE COMMANDER OF THE MARITIME DISTRICT AND CREWS GIVEN SHORE LEAVE. ON MARCH 31, CITY COUNCIL, MAYOR AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES OFFERED A RECEPTION IN HONOR DUTCH VISITORS WHO DEPARTED APRIL 1.

3. REACTING TO VISIT, MINISTER VREDELING HAS PROMULGATED STRICT NEW RULES PROVIDING THAT HE PERSONALLY CLEAR ALL SUCH VISITS IN FUTURE. VREDELING WAS APPARENTLY AWARE OF VISIT BUT DID NOT KNOW THAT SHIPS WOULD BE STAYING IN EL FERROL OR THAT CEREMONIAL PROGRAM WAS CONNECTED WITH VISIT. MOD SPOKESMAN TOLD PRESS THAT HAD MINISTER KNOWN OF NATURE OF VISIT BEFOREHAND, "IT WAS NOT RULED OUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE CANCELLED IT".

4. NAVY SPOKESMAN SAID THE VISIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN ACCORDANCE NORMAL PROCEDURES. NAVY HAD CONSULTED DIRECTLY WITH MFA WHICH ARRANGED VISIT PERMISSION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. NAVY SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SQUADRON COMMANDER'S VISIT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE SPANISH MARITIME DISTRICT WAS A NORMAL COURTESY CALL AND THAT A SIMILAR VISIT HAD BEEN MADE TO THE PORT OF CADIZ FEW DAYS BEFORE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

5. SECOND CHAMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANKERT HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE VISIT. RADICAL SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER WALTMAANS HAS ASKED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON VISIT WHICH HE CONSIDERS "MORALLY AND POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE" SINCE IT ALLEGEDLY CREATES IMPRESSION GON IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODE OF EXECUTION OF ANARCHIST MARCH 2.

6. COMMENT: VREDELING'S REACTION TO DUTCH NAVY'S VISIT TO EL FERROL DEL CAUDILLO INDICATES THE STRONG ANTIPATHY HE AND THE LEFT WING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE TOWARD SPAIN. WE HEAR THAT VREDELING HOLDS FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS IMBROGLIO, NET RESULT OF WHICH IS THAT HE WILL NOW PERSONALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEAR ALL PORT CALLS BY DUTCH NAVAL VESSELS.
INCIDENT ALSO BOUND TO IMPACT ADVERSELY ON VREDELING'S RELATIONS WITH UNIFORMED SERVICES.
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